

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
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DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS OFFICE OF VICE PRESIDENT/CPT. HOWE,
AND EUR/CE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: GW, OVIP (ROCKEFELLER, NELSON)
SUBJECT: DRAFT REMARKS FOR VICE PRESIDENT AT LORD MAYOR ARNDT'S
RECEPTION, MAY 14, 1976, 8:00 P.M.

"MR. LORD MAYOR, MRS. ARNDT, DISTINGUISHED GUESTS, LADIES AND
GENTLEMEN:

"I AM DEEPLY HONORED TO BE IN FRANKFURT THIS EVENING AND TO GET TO
KNOW AT FIRST HAND THIS ANCIENT YET MODER CITY. AMERICANS ARE
REMINDED OF THE NEWNESS OF OUR COUNTRY WHEN WE REFLECT THAT KARL
DER GROSSE PRESIDED FROM FRANKFURT OVER A EUROPE THAT COULD BE
REGARDED AS UNITED AT THAT TIME, NEARLY 1,000 YEARS BEFORE THE
PRESENT UNITED STATES WAS ESTABLISHED.

"IT IS NO EXAGGERATION, MR. LORD MAYOR, TO SAY THAT AMERICANS FEEL
AT HOME IN FRANKFURT. WE EXPERIENCE A SENSE OF IDENTITY WITH
THIS CITY WHICH SERVED 300 YEARS AGO AS A HAVEN FOR DUTCH
AND HUEGENOT REFUGEES IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE UNITED STATES
HAS TRADITIONALLY ACCEPTED THOSE WHO RESIST TYRANNY, PERSE-
CUTION, AND OPPRESSION. AND WE ARE MOVED BY THE HISTORIC ROLE
THAT FRANKFURT PLAYED IN THE MID-NINETEENTH CENTURY TO ESTAB-
LISH A UNIFIED, DEMOCRATIC GERMANY JUST TEN YEARS BEFORE OUR
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COUNTRY WAS TORN BY REVOLUTION AND DISORDER. WE RECALL THAT

FRANKFURT BANKS EXTENDED \$600 MILLION IN CREDITS TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DURING THE WAR BETWEEN THE STATES AND THE PRESIDENT LINCOLN'S WIDOW CAME HERE TO EXPRESS OUR COUNTRY'S GRATITUDE. AND WE ARE APPRECIATIVE OF THE WARM RECEPTION THAT THE CITIZENS OF FRANKFURT, AND INDEED MANY OTHER COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THIS PART OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC, HAVE ACCORDED SO MANY TENS OF THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN WHO HAVE BEEN STATIONED HERE IN OUR MUTUAL DEFENSE.

"MR. LORD MAYOR, GOETHE REFERRED TO FRANKFURT AS GERMANY'S "SECRET CAPITAL." IT HAS BEEN CENTRAL TO GERMANY'S HISTORY FOR OVER 1200 YEARS. PAULSKIRCHE, IN WHICH OUR GERMAN HOSTS' CELEBRATION OF THE BICENTENNIAL OF MY COUNTRY WILL BE HELD TOMORROW, HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE CRADLE OF THE MODERN GERMAN STATE.

"THIS CITY HAS AN UPWARD-THRUSTING DRIVE THAT WILL NOT BE STOPPED. IT ROSE FROM THE DESTRUCTIION OF THE LAST WAR TO RESUME ITS LEADERSHIP ROLE. ITS INTELLECTUAL HERITAGE, ITS NEWSPAPERS AND OTHER MEDIA, AND ITS BUSINESS AND COMMERCE SET STANDARDS FOR THE REST OF THE WORLD. ITS REPUTATION AS A FINANCIAL CENTER WAS FOUNDED ON EARLY PRIVATE BANKING SKILLS OF THE ROTHSCHILDS AND THE BETHMANNNS, BUT FINDS EXPRESSION TODAY IN THE MOST SOPHISTICATED ARRANGEMENTS THAT CAN BE DEVISED BY THE WORLD BANKING COMMUNITY.

"FRANKFURT'S CENTRAL LOCATION IN EUROPE IS ONE ELEMENT IN THE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY. THERE IS ANOTHER FACTOR WHICH IS IMPORTANT IN EXPLAINING THE CITY'S PREMMINENT POSITION: FRANKFURT VALUES HARD WORK AND INTEGRITY, QUALITIES THAT ARE TREASURED BY ALL MEN. THE FINE MANAGERS AND WORKERS OF THIS CITY HAVE ATTRACTED MANY LARGE AMERICAN FIRMS TO ESTABLISH A MAJOR BASE FOR OPERATION IN THIS CITY. WE ARE ENCOURAGED TO BELIEVE THAT THE GROWTH OF FRANKFURT AND OTHER GERMAN INVESTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES REFLECTS A SIMILAR ASSESSMENT OF GOOD QUALITIES IN THE AMERICAN SOCIETY.

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"FRANKFURT HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN THE HEARTS OF NEW YORKERS, OF WHOM I AM PROUD TO BE ONE. FRANKFURT STREET, IN NEW YORK CITY, WAS SO NAMED TO HONOR AN EARLY AND MOST DISTINGUISHED IMMIGRANT FROM THIS CITY, JAKOB LEISLER, WHO DIED IN THE CAUSE OF POLITICAL FREEDOM IN NEW YORK NEARLY 100 YEARS BEFORE INDIVIDUAL LIBERTY WAS GUARANTEED BY THE UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION. INDEED, THAT SOME 30 CITIES AND TOWNS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE NAMED AFTER FRANKFURT IS FURTHER EVIDENCE

OF THE IMPRINT THAT THIS OLD WORLD CITY HAS MADE ON THE NEW.

"FINALLY, I HAVE TO NOTE THAT HAPPY MARRIAGE OF AMERICA'S
FAVORITE SPORT AND FRANKFURT'S FAVORITE FOOD THAT INEXTRICABLY
LINKED BASEBALL TO THE HOTDOG*

".MR. LORD MAYOR, WE ARE HERE TODAY AND TOMORROW TO PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONIES HONORING MY COUNTRY ON THE OCCASION OF ITS TWO-HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY. AS WE ENTER ON OUR THIRD CENTENARY, WE ARE BUOYED BY THE KNOWLEDGE THAT AMERICA HAS FRIENDS LIKE GERMANY WITH WHOM TO FACE THE CHALLENGING YEARS AHEAD. THE WARMTH AND FRIENDLINESS OF YOUR RECEPTION REFLECT THE DEPTH OF THE TIES BETWEEN THE CITIZENS OF OUR TWO COUNTRIES. WE DEEPLY TOUCHED BY YOUR WARM WELCOME AND LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING TO KNOW YOU AND OUR OTHER GERMAN FRIENDS BETTER THIS EVENING." LEHMANN

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